

Express Mail Label No.: EV 375545755 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Erich C. Vierkant III, et al.
Application No.: --
Filed: Herewith
For:
Atty. Docket No.: 550299.94186

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 AND 1.98**

MS Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

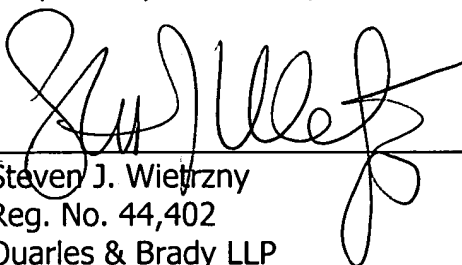
Sir:

This paper is being presented for filing in the above case pursuant to Rules 97 and 98 of the Rules of Practice. A Form PTO-1449 "Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant" is attached which lists the references cited and copies of the non-U.S. patent references are enclosed.

No additional fees for filing this paper are believed to be due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees due or to credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 4/1/2004



Steven J. Wietrzny
Reg. No. 44,402
Quarles & Brady LLP
411 East Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202-4497
(414) 277-5415

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	
Filing Date	Herewith
First Named Inventor	Erich C. Vierkant III
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	550299.94186

Sheet 1 of 1

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 4,080,671	03/28/1978	Stähli	
		US- 4,133,061	01/09/1979	Hurd	
		US- 4,159,548	07/03/1979	Hewson	
		US- 4,173,802	11/13/1979	Wikstrom	
		US- 4,309,780	01/12/1982	Fantetti	
		US- 4,319,365	03/16/1982	Bemis, et al.	
		US- 4,326,307	04/27/1982	Baillie, et al.	
		US- 4,832,573	05/23/1989	Dorski	
		US- 4,970,731	11/20/1990	Fait	
		US- 4,985,939	01/22/1991	Otte	
		US- 5,175,891	01/05/1993	Ohshima, et al.	
		US- 5,515,552	05/14/1996	Tolsma	
		US- 5,666,672	09/16/1997	Birsel, et al.	
		US- 5,901,383	05/11/1999	Yanagawa, et al.	
		US- 5,933,875	08/10/1999	Hulsebus, et al.	
		US- 6,070,295	06/06/2000	Hulsebus	
		US- 6,381,762	05/07/2002	Moser	
		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner
Signature

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.